

Florence 2 October 1869

My dear Professor Gray

I am commissioned by our friend Mr. Deccani to remind you of his desire to exchange his "Giornale Botanico", with all scientific periodicals, acts of academies etc. that are published in the States — he means all those that may contain articles of botanical interest. You were so kind as to make him hope you would be the means of putting him in correspondence with the editors of such periodicals, and he wishes to know whether the thing can be done. Three numbers of the Giornale have already appeared, and the fourth is to come out shortly.

I seize this opportunity to enquire after yr doings. I suppose this letter will find you returned to

America, so I send it there. Mrs. Gray I hope is in a satisfactory state of health. I beg you to present her my best respects.

Since I had the pleasure of your visit in Florence we have ~~experienced~~ much affliction at home. Two of my boys — those you saw — have been ill, one of them dangerously so; and a third, a darling child, our last-born, has been taken away from us. Its mother fell ill from grief of its loss, and is ~~only~~ now recovering. ~~and~~ My usual labours have been of course much disturbed, but now I have returned to them, with increased industry of will to find in them the means of diverting my thoughts from sad recollections.

I had great hopes of getting the professorship at Turin, since I had learned that De Kataris had refused it, and I had no other competitor but the aspirant to the late professor Moris, a certain Mr. Dellponke; in fact

I had been led to consider my nomination as certain. But my competitor was strongly supported by the University at Turin; and so the Ministry, not daring to name me in opposition to the vote of the University, has decided on having us tried by competitive examination — a thing so utterly abhorrent to my feelings, that I feel very much inclined to refuse the trial, though it seems my last chance of getting a situation in this country.

You will be sorry to hear that the establishment at San Donato (Demidoff's villa) is being broken up. I have been told that the plants are on sale, and the gardeners to be dismissed. My own botanical garden has been made over to the Municipality here, and I have left the direction of it.

Believe me always with the deepest regard
yours sincerely
T. Carnel